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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **D.A. Donovan: Man Sentenced to 12 Years for '06 Rape of Homeless Woman Under S.I. Boardwalk**

***\*\*\*Jason Gonzalez, 28, Sentenced to 12 Years in Prison for 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Rape\*\*\****

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today announced that Jason Gonzalez, (DOB: 3/23/1980) formerly of Robin Road, Staten Island, has been sentenced to 12 years in prison, following his March 27, 2008 plea to a felony charge of Rape in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree. The sentence was imposed by State Supreme Court Justice Stephen J. Rooney.

The defendant was arraigned on November 15, 2007 on an indictment alleging that he forcibly raped a 62 year old woman under the boardwalk at South Beach on July 17, 2006. The defendant was linked to the crime by DNA evidence recovered from the victim following the assault and matched to the defendant by a DNA sample collected in 2000 and maintained in a state database. The defendant is currently serving a sentence of 2 to 4 years in the Franklin Correctional Facility for an earlier felony charge of Grand Larceny in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree.

“Without the emergence of DNA technology, Jason Gonzalez would likely have escaped punishment for this savage attack on one of our most vulnerable citizens,” stated District Attorney Donovan. “This career criminal will now spend a significant portion of his adult life behind bars for this heinous act.”

The indictment alleged that the defendant approached the woman, who was homeless, as she was sleeping on a bench on the boardwalk, engaged her in conversation and then grabbed her from behind, choking her and threw her over a railing on the boardwalk onto the sand below. The defendant then dragged the victim under the boardwalk where he raped her. The victim sustained a broken pelvis and femur in the attack.

The case against Jason Gonzalez was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Wanda DeOliveira, Deputy Chief of the Sex Crimes/Special Victims Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Yolanda L. Rudich, Bureau Chief. The defendant is represented by Gregory C. Clarke, Esq.

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